



Rhode Island Department of Health
Three Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908-5094

www.health.ri.gov

TO: Women's Cancer Screening Program (WCSP) Providers
FROM: Brenda Di Paolo, Program Director, WCSP
DATE: March 1, 2010
SUBJECT: **URGENT!** The WCSP will cease to provide coverage for screening and diagnostic services for clients as of March 15, 2010 and new age eligibility and screening intervals for clients will be effective when program services resume July 1, 2010.

We are projecting that the Women's Cancer Screening Program's funds for direct services for WCSP clients related to annual breast & cervical cancer screening and diagnostic services will be expended by March 14, 2010. This is a direct result of more women seeking and receiving services during this fiscal year due to an increase in the number of women lacking health insurance and a poor economy within the State. The WCSP will not reimburse for any program services (screening and/or diagnostic) provided between March 15, 2010 through June 30, 2010. Providers are encouraged to create waiting lists for eligible clients age 40+ seeking services that will be available as of July 1, 2010 with the new fiscal year funding cycle.

Attached are the revised WCSP age eligibility guidelines which become effective when services begin again July 1, 2010. In summary, the WCSP will provide and pay for breast & cervical cancer screening services for women beginning at age 40 EVERY OTHER YEAR and will continue to pay for diagnostic services recommended as a result of screening through the WCSP.

The WCSP previously covered the cost of colposcopy for Title X (Family Planning) enrolled clients. Beginning March 15, 2010, the program can no longer cover the cost of colposcopy for Title X (Family Planning) enrolled clients and can no longer cover the cost for providing colposcopy for Title X clients in the next fiscal year. However, ongoing, the WCSP will continue to work with our providers to facilitate access to treatment through our State

Medicaid program for any woman without health insurance (including Title X clients) who meet WCSP eligibility criteria needing LEEPS/Cones to treat a precancerous cervical condition or women who meet WCSP eligibility with a clinical recommendation for breast biopsy.

In addition, we have revised the WCSP reimbursement rates to mirror the State reimbursement rates for Medicaid for all billable CPT codes with a date of services after January 1, 2010 through March 14, 2010 in an effort to cover the cost of procedures performed during this time frame with the balance of the limited budget for this fiscal year. We will continue to reimburse at the 2010 Medicaid rates when services begin again July 1, 2010.

In an effort to respond to questions regarding the abovementioned changes, we have asked CDC to provide us with conference call capability to address questions from our participating providers and their staff. Two (2) separate conference calls have been scheduled to address questions related to the new changes. The dates and times for the conference calls are:

- 1) March 11, 2010
Time: 1:00pm - 3:00 pm
- 2) March 23, 2010
Time: 9:00am - 11:00am

CDC will be providing the Call In Phone number for the conference calls as well as the passcode(s) by March 10, 2010 which we will post on the WCSP webpage at:

<http://www.health.state.ri.us/disease/cancer/women-screening-providers.php>. For Providers and their staff without internet access, call the WCSP Info line at 222-4324 on March 10, 2010 to get the Conference Call phone number and passcode to dial in.

The conference calls will be recorded and all questions and answers will also be posted on the WCSP webpage "Information for Health Care Providers" (same webpage as above). There will be 150 call in lines available for each conference call however, we encourage providers and their staff to share a call-in line when possible. If you have questions needing a response prior to the scheduled conference call dates, please call the WCSP State-Wide Toll Free Information line at 222-4324.